

SEAHAM HARBOUR
Urban District Council.



ANNUAL REPORT

FOR 1902,

OF

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.



SEAHAM HARBOUR :
W. J. Young, Printer and Stationer, 28, North Railway Street.
—
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To the Members of the Seaham Harbour Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting to you my Annual Report for 1902.

The population, estimated to June 30th, 1902, was 10,312; area, 1,080 acres.

481 births were registered during the year, equal to a birthrate of 47·6 per thousand, as against 43·7 for 1901, and 35·6 for the Administrative County of Durham for 1902. Of these births 239 were male and 242 female. This is the highest birthrate recorded here, and is 6·2 above the average for the previous ten years.

During the year 205 deaths of persons belonging to this district occurred, including 6 in the Workhouse, Easington, 3 in Sedgfield Asylum, and 3 in Sunderland Infirmary.

This gives a death rate of 19·8 as against 25·0 in 1901, and 16·6 for the Administrative County for 1902. Although still too high, this is the lowest death rate recorded for your district, being 2·9 below the average for the previous ten years.

The death rate from phthisis was 1·1 as compared with 1·06 for the County.

The respiratory diseases death rate was 4·7 as against 3·7 in 1901.

The deaths from zymotic diseases were :—measles 1, scarlet fever 1, whooping cough 2, diphtheria 1, enteric 4, and erysipelas 1, a total of 10, which gives a rate of 0·96 as compared with 4·3 in 1901, and 1·68 for the County for 1902. This is the first time I have had the pleasure of recording a zymotic death rate lower than that for the Administrative County, and it is a matter on which I beg to offer you my congratulations, as I believe it is due to the sanitary improvements, which you have carried out during the last two years.

75 deaths of children under 1 year of age were registered, giving an infant mortality rate of 155 as against 183 in 1901, and 139 for the County for 1902. There were no deaths from diarrhoea, owing to the cold summer and improved sanitary conditions.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

78 cases of infectious diseases were notified as compared with 130 in 1901 and 69 in 1900.

43 cases of scarlatina were notified as against 84 in 1901. It was of a mild type, and only 1 death occurred. There was only 1 case notified during the last six months of the year.

Cases of measles occurred from time to time, but we did not have our usual epidemic. 1 death from this disease was registered as compared with 10 in 1901.

No case of typhus, smallpox, or puerperal fever has been notified during the year.

14 cases of enteric fever were notified as against 28 in 1901. They occurred in the following houses :—

3, Back North Railway Street	1	11, William Street	1
40, Church Street	2	8, South Railway Street	1
41, Church Street	1	9, Tempest Place	2
43, Church Street	1	19, Caroline Street	1
45, Frances Street	1	10, Henry Street	1
5, Back Henry Street	2		

2 cases of the disease were not contracted in this district, and the cases in Church Street I attribute to the foul middens which have since been removed. I enquired about the milk supply in every case, and there was no reason to suspect it. In four houses they had always used tinned milk.

18 cases of diphtheria were notified, and 1 death occurred. It was a mild type of the disease and therefore difficult to isolate. It is often spread by direct infection, and, therefore, children with sore throats should not be sent to school.

9 cases of enteric fever were removed to the isolation hospital during the year of which 1 proved fatal. Some of the patients suffered from the disease in a malignant form, and in my opinion owe their lives to the skilful nursing which they received.

GENERAL SANITATION.

The water supply is pumped from the magnesian limestone, and abundant in quantity. Samples were sent for analysis on two occasions and found quite satisfactory.

161 privy middens were removed during the year, but unfortunately there are a great many still left to pollute both the soil and the atmosphere. When, may I ask, are all these disgusting, dangerous middens to be removed from our district, and when shall we be free from these blots on our sanitary administration?

The scavenging is done by workmen employed by the Council between the hours of 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. It has been done satisfactorily, and the men who empty the middens deserve commendation for the way in which they have carried out such disgusting work. I often marvel how they do it.

Several yards are still in an insanitary condition through defective paving.

The sewage system is still unsatisfactory, but under the direction of the Council the Surveyor has prepared plans with the object of having it rectified.

A smallpox hospital has been erected on a suitable site in the district, and we are now in a position to deal with any case which may occur.

The dairies and lodging houses have been regularly inspected and found in a satisfactory condition.

The factories and workshops have been inspected, and where any sanitary defect existed notice was given to have it at once rectified.

The appended report of the Surveyor shows the large amount of work which has been done in his department. As usual, he has been most zealous in the discharge of his duties.

I beg to express my indebtedness to Mr. Aird for his interesting report on the weather during the year.

SANITARY REQUIREMENTS.

- 1.—The removal of all privy middens
- 2.—The cementing or asphaltting of all unpaved or improperly paved yards
- 3.—New system of sewage
- 4.—A steam disinfecting apparatus
- 5.—A public mortuary

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

L. GERALD DILLON, M.D., M.O.H.



BIRTHS.

Months	Male	Female	Monthly Totals
January	28	27	55
February	21	24	45
March	21	23	44
April	22	18	40
May	18	17	35
June	20	18	38
July	24	20	44
August	13	16	29
September	17	30	47
October	17	23	40
November	25	16	41
December	13	10	23
YEARLY TOTALS..	239	242	481

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING 1902.

Causes of Death	Deaths in Whole District at Subjoined Ages							Deaths in Public Institutions
	All Ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards	
Smallpox								
Measles	1		1					
Scarlet Fever	1			1				
Whooping-cough	2	1	1					
Diphtheria and Membrane- ous Croup	1	1						
Croup								
Fever { Typhus	4			1		2	1	
Enteric								
Other continued								
Epidemic Influenza								
Cholera								
Plague								
Diarrhœa								
Enteritis	1	1						
Puerperal Fever								
Erysipelas	1					1		
Other Septic diseases								
Phthisis	12		1	2	3	6		1
Other Tubercular diseases	15	6	6			3		
Cancer, malignant disease	7					1	6	1
Bronchitis	27	15	9			1	2	1
Pneumonia	22	3	3	1		10	5	1
Pleurisy								
Other diseases of Respira- tory organs								
Alcoholism	1					1		
Cirrhosis of Liver)								
Venereal diseases								
Premature Birth	16	16						
Diseases and accidents of Parturition	1					1		
Heart diseases	11			2		6	3	
Accidents	3					2	1	1
Suicides								
Murder	1					1		
All other causes	79	32	8	3	1	14	21	7
ALL CAUSES	206	75	29	10	4	49	39	12

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1902 and Previous Years.

YEAR	Population estimated to middle of each year	BIRTHS		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN DISTRICT				Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District	Deaths of Non-residents registered in Public Institutions in the District	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District	NET DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT	
		Num-ber	Rate	Under 1 year of age		At all ages					Num-ber	Rate
				Number	Rate per 1000 Births registered	Number	Rate					
1892	9176	352	38.3	63	178	216	23.5				216	23.5
1893	9285	414	44.5	62	150	217	23.3				217	23.3
1894	9392	354	37.6	66	186	228	24.2			3	231	24.5
1895	9503	408	42.9	75	183	209	21.9			4	213	22.2
1896	9614	478	44.5	91	212	207	21.5			8	215	22.3
1897	9728	397	40.8	85	214	205	21.0			19	224	23.0
1898	9842	378	38.4	70	185	191	19.4			12	203	20.6
1899	9957	420	42.1	75	178	196	19.6			10	206	20.6
1900	10074	424	42.0	74	174	213	21.1			14	227	22.5
1901	10192	446	43.7	82	183	243	23.8			12	255	25.0
Averages for years 1892-1901	9676.3	407.1	41.4	74.3	184	212.5	21.9				220.7	22.7
1902	10312	481	47.6	75	155	195	18.9	1	1	11	205	19.8

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1902.

Notifiable Disease	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT							No. of Cases removed to Hospital from each locality
	At all Ages	At Ages—Years						
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upwards	
Small-pox								
Cholera								
Diphtheria	18	2	4	12				
Membraneous croup ..								
Erysipelas	3		1			2		
Scarlet fever	43		22	20	1			
Typhus fever								
Enteric fever	14				5	8	1	9
Relapsing fever ..								
Continued fever ..								
Puerperal fever ..								
Plague								
TOTALS	78	2	27	32	6	10	1	9

Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1889.

CASES NOTIFIED EACH MONTH.

Months	No. of Cases Notified	CAUSES			
		Diphtheria	Erysipelas	Scarlet fever	Enteric or Typhoid fever
January	18	3		15	
February	8	3	1	4	
March.. ..	7	3	1	3	
April	10	1	1	7	1
May	12	2		10	
June	4	1		3	
July	1	1			
August					
September	2	1			1
October	11			1	10
November	1				1
December	4	3			1
YEARLY TOTALS ..	78	18	3	43	14

SUMMARY of Work done in the Inspector of Nuisances' Department, for the year 1902.

1. Public Health Acts.					Number of Informal written Notices by Inspector	Number of Formal Notices by order of Authority	Number of Nuisances abated after Notice
Dwelling-houses	}	Foul Conditions ..			12		12
and		Structural Defects					
Schools		Overcrowding ..			16		16
Lodging-houses	..	..	..	..	4		4
Dairies and Milkshops	..	..	..	..	2		2
Cowsheds	..	..	..	..	2		2
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	1		1
Slaughter-houses	..	..	..	..	2		2
*Ashpits and Privies	..	..	..	..	38	135	161
Deposits of Refuse and Manure	..	..	..	..	7		7
Waterclosets	..	..	..	..	8		8
Defective Yard Paving	..	..	..	..	46	30	76
House	}	Defective Traps ..			4		4
Drainage		No disconnection from Sewers ..					
		Other Faults ..			18	4	22
Water Supply	..	..	..	..	2		2
Pigsties	..	..	..	..	3		3
Animals Improperly Kept	..	..	..	..	16		16
Offensive Trades	..	..	..	..			
Smoke Nuisances	..	..	..	..			
Other Nuisances	..	..	..	..	12		12
TOTALS ..					193	169	350

*3 waterclosets were put in by Council and costs recovered from owner, after a notice given by Council had not been complied with.

	Number
2. Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890.	
Formal Notices served	2
Dwellings dealt with	
Dwellings made habitable after formal notice	
Closing Orders applied for	
Closing Orders granted by Magistrates	
Dwellings permanently closed	
3. Factory and Workshop Act, 1901.	
Action taken, Notices served, &c.	1
4. Water, Food, and Drugs.	
Samples of Water taken for Analysis	2
„ „ condemned as unfit for use	
Seizure of Unwholesome Food	
Convictions for exposing or selling Unwholesome Food ..	
Samples of Food and Drugs taken for Analysis	
„ „ found Adulterated	
4. Precautions against Infectious Disease.	
Lots of Infectious Bedding stoved or destroyed	22
Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease	25
Schools „ „ „	
Prosecutions for exposure of infected persons or things ..	
Convictions „ „ „ „ ..	

Weather at Seaham Harbour for the year 1902.

WIND.

The direction is taken twice daily, viz. : 9 a.m. and 9 p.m.
The 730 observations thus taken were in the following proportions :

W	..	..	167
NW	..	..	103
SE	..	..	99
SW	..	..	66
N ..	..	..	63
E ..	..	..	50
S ..	..	..	42
NE	..	..	40
Calm	..	..	100
			730

TEMPERATURE.

Month	Average Maximum	Average Minimum	Mean
January	44°·9	36°·3	40°·6
February	39·6	30·6	35·1
March	50·3	36·8	43·5
April	51·7	37·7	44·7
May	52·1	40·1	46·1
June	56·9	46·9	55·4
July	63·1	49·1	56·1
August	61·3	48·2	54·7
September	60·6	48·5	54·5
October	54·4	44·4	49·4
November	50·1	40·7	45·4
December	46·4	37·6	42·0
MEANS	51·0	41·2	46·1

Highest, 78·0, on July 6th ; Lowest, 18·0 on February 12th.

RAINFALL.

Month	Total	Greatest fall in 24 hours	No. of Days
January	·858	·110 on 11th	11
February	1·305	·300 8th	14
March	·475	·090 26th	10
April	1·571	·620 15th	11
May.. ..	2·168	·650 30th	20
June	2·193	·400 12th	17
July.. ..	2·313	·655 26th	18
August	1·484	·340 17th	14
September	·805	·192 15th	12
October	1·932	·680 10th	20
November	1·247	·305 24th	8
December	2·610	·850 1st	13
	18·961		162

Average fall for the years 1865 to 1871 inclusive—26·014 inches

Total for the year 1872—41·620 inches in 148 days

Average for the years 1873 to 1902 inclusive—26·423 inches

„ Nv. of Days on which rain fell—187

The year 1900 was the wettest in 37 years (except 1872). The following were the next wettest:—

{ 1876	30·083
{ 1877	32·094
{ 1881	31·391
{ 1882	30·494

One inch of rain is equal to one gallon of water spread over 2 square feet, or 101 tons on an acre of land.

The rainfall for 1902 is thus—7·462 inches, short of the average

G. H. AIRD.

